

**Community Improvements on the Way
Council President Scott Peters, First District
For the Carmel Valley News, September 2006**

One of my proudest achievements as City Councilman has been the completion and immense popularity of the Rancho Peñasquitos skate park. For years, neighbors and businesses had complained about loitering and property damage which they attributed to teenage skateboarders. While there were some concerns about building a skate park in the community, it has proved an overwhelming success, providing a safe and secure place for kids to gather.

We want to replicate that success in Carmel Valley. Skateboarding is a popular activity with young people in this community. They deserve a clean, supervised and well-lit place to hone their skills.

When I first proposed a Carmel Valley skate park in early 2005, it was not included in the community plan. Since that time, we've agreed on a site next to the new Northwest police substation, and the committee that oversees developer impact fees has agreed to set aside more than \$300,000 in funding for the initial designs.

Part of what made the Peñasquitos project a success was the extensive public input on location and design. The current proposed schedule for Carmel Valley builds in a lot of time for public input, in addition to time for professional design, bidding and construction. The City is currently looking for a design consultant. One will be selected by this Fall, and by early next year we hope to have the designs ready for community input.

While this project is currently scheduled to be complete in Fall of 2009, it is my goal to have the skate park open and operating by mid-2008.

The Carmel Valley Community Planning Board Skate Park Subcommittee will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12 at the Carmel Valley Library. I encourage all citizens interested in the skate park project to participate in that committee. For more information, you can visit their website www.carmelvalleyskatepark.com.

We recently broke ground on another improvement project in Carmel Valley, the Carmel Valley Road Enhancement Project, which will improve a nearly-one mile stretch between Via Mar Valley and Portofino Drive. It will reduce excessive speed, manage traffic volume, and control seasonal overflow beach parking.

When I took office in 2000, I began working with community leaders on four major projects: the permanent closure of Sorrento Valley Road, the reconstruction of the Torrey Pines Bridge, the construction of a median on Del Mar Heights Road, and to make these much-needed enhancements to Carmel Valley Road in order to make the road safer and a cleaner neighbor to the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. I'm pleased that we have made such great progress on each of these.

Construction on Carmel Valley Road is expected to take six months, and will improve bicycle and pedestrian safety along that busy stretch of road in addition to improving traffic flow and protecting the Lagoon.

My thanks to the community members and city staffers who make all of these projects possible.